

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus, comprising:

installing the treating apparatus to a user;

connecting the treating apparatus at the user to a server on a seller side of the treating apparatus through a communication line;

using the treating apparatus upon request from the user and permission of the seller side through the communication line;

measuring a using time of the treating apparatus by the user through the communication line; and

charging a fee of the treating apparatus based on the using time of the treating apparatus, said fee of the treating apparatus including a part, based on the using time, of an entire cost of the treating apparatus.

2. (original) A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising downloading a program to be used for the apparatus from the server through the communication line.

3. (original) A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising diagnosing a fault of the treating apparatus through the communication line.

4. (original) A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising charging a fee for diagnosing the fault of the treating apparatus through the communication line.

5. (original) A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said treating apparatus is at least one of a measuring apparatus and an analyzing apparatus, and the fee is one of a whole cost and a part thereof.

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fee is also calculated based on a using condition including one of a program to be used, downloading a program of the treating apparatus, and diagnosing a fault of the treating apparatus in case of a fault condition.

8. (currently amended) A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising connecting the seller side to the server through the communication line to prove the fee of the treating apparatus at the user to the seller side.

9. (currently amended) A method of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said seller side provides an update program and a new program for the treating apparatus to the server to allow the user to access to information of the update and new programs.

10. (previously presented) A system of conducting a business with a treating apparatus, comprising:

a terminal connected to the treating apparatus on a user's side, said terminal connecting the treating apparatus to a communication line; and

accounting means installed at a server on a seller's side and connected to the communication line, said accounting means being actuated whenever the treating apparatus is used, calculating a fee according to a using condition of the treating apparatus through the communication line and charging the fee to the user, said fee including a part, based on the using time, of an entire cost of the treating apparatus.

11. (original) A system of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said accounting means calculates an amount to be charged, of the treating apparatus based on a processing content and an operation time of the treating apparatus through the communication line.

12. (original) A system of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising means for storing information used by the treating apparatus at the server, said storing means including a program to be used for the apparatus and a fault-diagnosing program.

13. (original) A system of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said treating apparatus is at least one of a measuring apparatus and an analyzing apparatus, and the fee is one of a whole cost and a part thereof.

14. (previously presented) A system of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said fee is also calculated based on a using condition including one of a program to be used, downloading a program of the treating apparatus, and diagnosing a fault of the treating apparatus in case of a fault condition.

15. (original) A system of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising an update program and a new program for the treating apparatus provided from a seller to the server to allow the user to access to information of the update and new programs.

16. (previously presented) A system of conducting a business with a treating apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising use approval determining means installed in the server between the terminal and the accounting means, said use approval determining means permitting use of the treating apparatus upon request from a user and starting said accounting means.